



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (*NOAA*)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - October 30, 2001

- ***In the West***, the season's first major winter storm is producing widespread precipitation as far south as ***central California***, aiding drought-stressed winter wheat and blanketing high-elevation areas in the ***Cascades and Sierra Nevada*** with significant snowfall.
- ***On the Plains***, mild, dry weather continues to promote summer crop harvesting and final winter wheat planting. However, October dryness has reduced soil moisture for winter wheat establishment, especially across ***Montana, Oklahoma, and western Texas***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, scattered showers and wet field conditions continue to slow summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting, especially from ***Michigan southward to the Ohio Valley***.
- ***In the South***, mild, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork, including winter wheat planting and cotton, soybean, and peanut harvesting. However, increasingly dry conditions are hampering wheat development from the ***Mid-Atlantic region southward into Georgia***.

Outlook: Mild weather is forecast nearly nationwide for the remainder of the week, accompanied by little or no rainfall across the ***Plains*** and much of the ***South***. However, a tropical disturbance may generate locally heavy showers in ***southern Florida*** after mid-week. Elsewhere, precipitation will be confined to ***northern California, the Northwest, and the Great Lakes region***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for November 4-8 calls for near- to above-normal temperatures and mostly dry weather nearly nationwide. Cool weather and widespread showers are likely to be confined to ***Florida's peninsula***. In contrast, mild, dry weather will favor an acceleration of fieldwork across the ***Midwest***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)